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water, or hot-spring water, or underground water, or well water or city water, any one of which contains lithium, calcium, magnesium, sodium or potassium.

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15. (Amended) A graphite material for use in forming a negative electrode of a lithium ion secondary cell which is capable of occluding or releasing lithium ions, wherein said graphite material has adsorbed or is coated with a layer of surface active material that (1) has not been graphitized by heat treatment and (2) consists essentially of at least one member selected from the group consisting of acetic starch, phosphoric starch, carboxymethyl starch and hydroxyalkyl starch wherein the amount of said surface active material is present in a range of 0.01 to 10.0 wt. % based upon the weight of graphite material.

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16. (Amended) A graphite material for use in forming a negative electrode of a lithium ion secondary cell which is capable of occluding or releasing lithium ions, wherein said graphite material has adsorbed or is coated with a layer of surface active material that (1) has not been graphitized by heat treatment and (2) consists essentially of at least one member selected from the group consisting of pullulan and dextrine, wherein the amount of said surface active material is present in a range of 0.01 to 10 wt. % based upon the weight of graphite material.

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